



ARENA REPORT



P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795-2547

\$1.00

Volume III, Number 19

July 8, 1991

Hello again and welcome to another issue of "AR". Once again we're chock full of material so let's tell you what we got in store for this round. We have a live report on a WWF show which took place on 6/29 in Orlando. K.C. O'Connor has his live Clash report which is very interesting coming from one of the members of Greensboro's "Front Row Section D". New ESPN color commentator Scott Hudson has a look at the last Omni card as well as Georgia All-Star tapings in his journal. He also sent a supplement on the first Global Wrestling Federation tapings which took place in Dallas on 6/28 & 6/29. When you see Scott on ESPN next week, don't make fun of his receding hairline. Marianne Ryan is officially off this issue but I am running her "Columnist Profile". Evan Ginzburg returns with "A Piece of My Mind" and Mike Terry also is here with "It's My 2-Cents".

Next issue will be cover dated 7/22 and will include a live report on an IWF card from the spring training home of my team, the Boston Red Sox meaning Winter Haven. We also hope to have our first ever "AR" interview. I was waiting for Bowdren to get his butt up here to visit his parents so I could snag him to conduct the interview but I'm not waiting for Christmas. His mom and dad have probably disowned him by now. We'll also have "Bash Banter" which will include comments and opinions on the PPV in Baltimore. For those that didn't know, I won't be attending this year so sorry I missed all of you going and hope you have a great time. Scott Hudson will be by with more GWF news. Klone comes back with more WCW bashing I'm sure. And Marianne will be here with more notes.

Arena Report is published bi-weekly at the cost of \$1.00 per issue. All renewals, letters, and results may be sent to Arena Report, P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795-2547. A label on your envelope indicates how many issues you have left on your sub. Let's go to the O-rena.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Saturday, June 29, 1991

Orlando Arena

Orlando, FL

Opening Match

Berzerker beat Koko Ware after a hot shot in 9:33. Nord has to drop the Brody imitation. It's irritating as hell. Nord took a good bump over the top after a Koko dropkick. 3/4* all for Ware.

2nd Match

Davey Boy Smith defeated Typhoon (Tugboat) via count out in 10:29. Typhoon was a sub for Curt Hennig. Figures. One of the only bouts I was looking forward to and it doesn't take place. Should know what Curt's problem is but I know he's been hurt lately. Good thing Davey Boy didn't have to testify in the steroid trial. Roids would have been oozing out of his

pores while on the stand.. Fans were chanting traitor at Tugboat. First lock up wasn't until 3:30. Dud

Main Event

Ultimate Warrior over Undertaker via DQ in 12:39. My first time seeing Callous with this gimmick live cept for TV tapings. A lock for gimmick of the year. Watch little kids when this guy comes out. You talk about fear. Pringle does a great job at ringside. The wrestling wasn't all that great but everything they did in the match was perfect. Had the crowd eating out of their hands. After Taker was DQ'd for using the urn, he and Paul Bearer tried to stuff Warrior in the body bag. I thought there would be a riot. Fans were going nuts. When Warrior made his comeback, they brawled to the back. **1/2

4th Match

Bret Hart pinned The Warlord at 17:13. The longest match of the night and the worst. Only good spot saw Bret jump off the apron into Warlord's waiting arms outside the ring and slam Bret's back into the ringpost in quick succession. Looked good. End saw Bret sunset flip from the apron and ref Rick Hunter kicked Warlord's hands to allow Bret to get the three count. -*

5th Match

Irwin R. Rotunda rolled up Jimmy Snuka in 8:07. Looks like Dr. Zahorian helped out Mike again before going to jail. Rotunda's arms are bulging. When did Snuka start wearing wrestling boots? No heat. Crowd was dead. Awful. Dud

Tag Team Match

Rockers beat Bravo & Glory in 10:57. That's what they called them. Dino subbed for Hercules. Didn't think they could do worse but they did. Herc is out after being suspended for failing a drug test. Their sacrificial lamb this time around. Like he's the only one huh? One screw up here saw Bravo whip Marty into outside rail but Jannetty tripped on themat, did a somersault and crashed into the rail. When he got up, he clocked Dino with a chair. Shawn rolled up Roma after Rockers threw two together. **

Final Match

Jake Roberts DDT'd Earthquake at 12:05 when Andre distracted Quake and Jake caught him by surprise. Awful match. I pity Andre. Dud

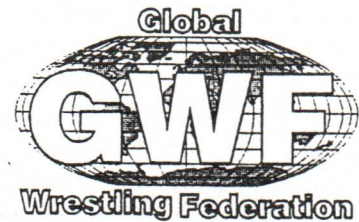
NOTES: Crowd was 7,100 which was decent. They retuen 8/3 with Warrior-Under-taker in a body bag bout, Nasties-Roadies, Perfect-Davey Boy, Mountie-Boss Man. Same old crap. Can't wait until they change the match-ups.

RAMBLINGS

The big news as most of you know by now is that Ric Flair was fired from WCW on Monday. It seems as though the WCW brass wanted Ric to get his contract cut nearly in half for the next two years as part of his extension. There is lots more to the story but what this leaves them with is Lex Luger taking on Barry Windham in Baltimore for the title in a steel cage. I have lots to cover but I'd like to give you my opinion on this before we go on. I have had lots of calls this week and everyone basically has the same feeling. WCW was stupid to fire Flair. I may be in the minority, but what can it hurt? It wasn't a nice way to treat him for sure but can they do any worse at the gates? Ric's credibility was shot and his act was so stale that I wasn't really even looking forward to Flair-Eaton at the last Clash. Good thing my expectations weren't too high. If Flair goes to the WWF which he's expected to, it will make following both groups alot more interesting. WCW doesn't have the "Nature Boy" to fall back on anymore. I firmly believe that Luger and Windham will work the match of their lives Sunday. The Flair era is over and they'll want people to forget Ric, which will be tough as hell. If Flair hits Titan, Vince would be smart to put him vs. Hulk on top at Wrestlemania with Sid vs. Undertaker underneath. Big time buckeroos. Not that the later match will be great but it will sell like crazy. I've heard that Ric will be doing a tour of Japan, working Goodhart's August show, (although this came from Goodhart telling other people) and will be attending John Arezzi's New York convention in August before heading to Titan. It will be very interesting to see how this all turns out. I still think WCW will be history by December anyways....The Steiners will be stripped of their tag belts due to Scott's injury and the 30 day rule. There will be a tournament with Arn Anderson & Larry Zbyszko coming out on top from what I've heard. Bad choice....Brian Blair will be holding three fantasy wrestling weekends in conjunction with Mons Venus. The first one is skedded for August 9-11 in Tampa....USA Today on 7/5 had an inset in the Lyle Alzado story saying how it was ironic that in the Sports Illustrated issue that dealt with Lyle, there was a Right Guard ad with Hogan on the back inside cover....Randy Savage threw out the first pitch at a St. Louis Cardinal game last week. He then joined Jack Buck in the broadcast booth for an inning. At least the owners didn't throw him out like Marge Schott did in Cincinnati a couple of years ago when she found out he was in the booth there....7/13 on TBS will see Johnny B. Badd over Johnny Rich, and a six man with Bobby Eaton, Yellow Dog, & Ron Simmons beating Larry Z., Arn Anderson, & Steve Austin when Dog pinned Larry who had pulled Pillman's (ooops) mask off but Dog had another one on underneath. Do you know who it is yet? Surprised they are not having a contest....Next IWF taping at Universal skedded for 7/24....Penelope Paradise slated to come in as a manager. Gets great crowd heat....This gem from Lord Al Hayes on Prime Time during bout involving Tim Patterson: "I know he's no relation to Pat, but I know he (Pat) is behind him all the way." Moone's reaction, "Oh, really?"....Have heard from a few different people after reading my comment last ish about Dusty still being on Vince's payroll that it isn't Dusty to watch out for but Jim Barnett....Orlando Sentinel had a story about Roddy Piper being in Orlando to shoot a new movie last week. Funny, no mention of the steroid trial he was involved in. Nice little press release I'm sure... Howard Baum of 333-09 Ives Dairy Rd., North Miami Beach, FL 33179 is selling a set of Nurse Goodbody vs. Goodbody pics for \$22.00 (17 pics) or 2.00 each. He also has pictures of Florida wrestling from the past 10 years as well as mags from 1960-present....Mansfield won't be running Winter Haven as I mentioned on page 1 so there will be no live report. He'll let TV run for a month or so before hitting the houses....Have an idea why WCW is bringing in Patriot: Will let you hear it next ish....Chris Benoit slated to be in GWF junior tourney this weekend. Gotta go. See ya next ish....

THE BIRTH OF THE

The Globaldome - Dallas, Texas
June 28 & 29, 1991



GLOBAL WRESTLING FEDERATION TELEVISION CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT			
FIRST ROUND	QUARTERFINALS	SEMIFINALS	FINAL ROUND
Brian Adams	Billy Black	Billy Black	The Patriot
Billy Black			
Randy Rhodes	Randy Rhodes		
Sweet Daddy Falcone			
The Patriot	The Patriot	The Patriot	Chris Walker
Stan Lane			
Fantasma	Wild Bill Irwin		
Wild Bill Irwin			
Terry Garvin	Terry Garvin		Buddy Landell
The Zebra Kid			
Pvt. Terry Daniels	Muchan Singh	Muchan Singh	
Muchan Singh			
Chris Walker	Chris Walker	Chris Walker	Buddy Landell
Doug Sommers			
The Hit Man	Rip Rogers		
Rip Rogers			
Art Rotten	Exotic Adrian Street	Exotic Adrian Street	Buddy Landell
Exotic Adrian Street			
Jeff Gaylord	Rasta the Voodoo Man		
Rasta the Voodoo Man			
Jimmy James	Big Bully Busick		Buddy Landell
Big Bully Busick			
Gary Young	Buddy Landell		
Buddy Landell			

FINAL ROUND FOR THE GWF TELEVISION CHAMPIONSHIP
Format: The three finalists will have a coin flip. The winner will receive a bye into the CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH.
PLAYOFF MATCH: FINALIST The Patriot vs. Chris Walker
CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH: WINNER PLAYOFF vs. WINNER COIN FLIP The Patriot vs. Buddy Landell

NEWS AND NOTES FROM DALLAS: Wow! What a weekend!..Apart from the \$30 cab ride from Dallas/Fort Worth Airport to The Globaldome, everything went perfect..The Patriot got over so good it made P.N. News look like the return of Outback Jack..Morale among the wrestlers was understandably apprehensive going in but that quickly changed to upbeat enthusiasm following the first night ..Please don't interpret this as shilling for the promotion that I work for. It is not. This was really, really good stuff..Wrestlers who got over were Big Bully Busick, The Patriot, Jeff Gaylord, Rasta the Voodoomon, Chris Walker, & Rip Rogers..Stan Lane, Jim Cornette, & Buddy Landell were as good as you can imagine ..Buddy's matches were all the classic Landell Tour De Forces that we have come to expect.. The "GWF Major League Wrestling" syndicated show was also taped.

PATRIOT TAKES INAUGURAL GWF TELEVISION TITLE

(Dallas, Texas) - The Patriot defeated Buddy Landell in 7:08 to become the first Global Wrestling Federation Television Champion on Saturday June 29, 1991, at The Globaldome in Dallas, Texas. The Globaldome, formerly The Sportatorium, housed an enthusiastic crowd of 1000 people each night for the two night tournament. The bracketing for the tournament (left) resulted in 3 actual finalists: The Patriot, Chris Walker, and Buddy Landell. The 3 met in the center of the ring with play-by-play announcer Craig Johnson for the flip of the coin. The odd man out of the coin flip would receive a bye to the championship match. Walker and The Patriot both came up heads while Landell showed tails allowing The Nature Boy to advance. Walker and The Patriot wrestled a grueling match while Landell waited at ringside. As Walker climbed to the top turnbuckle for a high cross-body, Landell shoved the muscular youngster on to the ring mat allowing the injured Patriot to pin Walker and advance. Controversially, Landell did not provide The Patriot with a rest period and immediately jumped the popular masked man. The Patriot, who had severely injured his shoulder in the Walker match, was manhandled by Landell before making stirring comeback to gain a victory over the Nature Boy to win the championship. The tournament will air in its entirety on "ESPN Supercard" weekdays at 4:00PM EST beginning on Monday July 8, 1991, with Craig Johnson handling the play-by-play and Scott Hudson adding the color commentary.

(L to R) Scott Hudson, Boni Blackstone, and Craig Johnson on stage at The Globaldome in Dallas, Texas, at the debut of the Global Wrestling Federation. Hudson and Johnson are the announcing team for "ESPN Supercard" while Blackstone conducts interviews on the show as well as hosting the "Fan's Questions" segment.



IT'S MY 2-CENTS

BY MIKE TERRY

I love to play devil's advocate, and I gotta tell ya gang, I like the new WCW characters. Oh I don't like every single thing about each of them, but I think the gimmicks have tons of potential and, IF used correctly, will draw money. That's a big "if." I have to admit I'm pessimistic about the possibility that WCW might actually do something with these performers that will result in increased attendance at house shows and better TV ratings. I like Steve Austin, Black Blood, Johnny B. Badd, The Desperadoes, Slater & Murdoch, P.N. News, and the One Man Gang. I applaud WCW for recognizing the need for new faces—even though there are no strong babyfaces. They're generally solid performers with interesting characters. The telling point here is how those characters will develop. What are the storylines for the characters? That's where I think WCW takes a back seat to the WWF. Vince makes those characterizations clear and compelling, whereas in WCW there seems to be little development of the personalities. What you see is what you get and that's pretty one dimensional. The attraction wears off after a couple weeks. The matches aren't gonna get them over because the matches are all the same. It's punch, clothesline, and pin, match after match, week after week. It takes more than just putting them in a costume and throwing them in the ring. The personality of the character is what the fans will grow to love or hate. Beyond that, the issues between the personalities are what puts butts in seats. Again, the WWF dominates with clearly drawn portraits. We know why Jake and Andre want Earthquake, and why Hogan is after Slaughter. Why does Johnny B. Badd want P.N. News? Why are the Desperadoes after Stan Hansen? Why does Luger want Flair? The belt? Meaningless.

Did I forget to mention the character "Oz?" No. That's where I draw the line, Toto. Oz is a ding-dong. Although if they decide to add the Wicked Witch of the West Lady Blossom would fill those ruby slippers.....I applaud the idea of the videos to introduce the Desperadoes and the production values are terrific. But the segments are just too long. They could easily cut them in half and make whatever point they're trying to make (even I don't know what that is). There's just too much useless, pointless dialogue. Or maybe do 2 short segments per show with little cliffhangers to end each one.

And what about the Yellow Dog? That whole concept has been atrociously handled. Not well explained at all from the very start and it won't get over as a result.

Separated at birth: Angel of Death and Frank Zappa.....In the battle of the bellies will Dick Murdoch bounce JYD? Come on, Dickie, lay off the Lone Star.....Wasted Talent: Big Daddy Dink.....In this month's cable bill, I got a small flyer advertising the Great American Bash PPV. Interesting that the names of Paul E. Dangerously and Missy Hyatt are in large bold print, while Arn, Barry, and the Steiners are in small print. Maybe I'm missing something here, but do they really think Paul & Missy are more of an attraction than the others?.....Quite a comment from a semi-mark friend who works at the local cable outfit. They received those small flyers the day BEFORE the last Clash. He says to me, "Geez, we knew Luger would beat Muta and Flair would defeat Eaton because Flair-Luger was already listed on the flyer as the main event." Yep--it's those damn newsletters that expose the business.

Most of my friends think both P.N. News and Johnny B. Badd are black.

Quotes of the month: Lord Alfred Hayes on Steve Lombardi. "I do know that Pat Patterson is firmly behind him." Hacksaw Jim Duggan on Sid Justice: "There's TWO things I admire about Sid Justice: he's a tough guy, he's an American, and he stands for the good ole USA."

Bobby Heenan on a Nasty Boys finishing maneuver: "That's the double inverted crotch backbreaker slam." Actually, that's about what it looked like!.....I'm embarrassed for Bobby Heenan that he's being humiliated each week as the victim of so many of the tasteless skits on Prime Time.

I've always enjoyed Larry Z.'s stalling. I think it generates great heat from the fans.....congratulations to Joe Pedicino for putting Global together and best of luck to him as he attempts to make it viable. But Joe, swallow your ego and stay in the TV truck. You're not the best man for the color commentator's job.

I hope you're having a terrific summer! Until next month, deal with it, it's just my 2-cents.

A PIECE OF MY MIND
by Evan Ginzburg

Hey, gang! It's 98 degrees and humid here in the burning apple! My brain is fried, my interest in wrestling has almost died, and here's another "piece of my mind..."

A question that's been bugging me....if Sid Vicious can be a superstar with minimal wrestling ability, a big body, and a square head, why couldn't the NWA take any of their current roster of 12 foot tall stiff (Scott Hall aka Diamond Stud, Oz, El Gigante etc.) and with the right push do the very same thing? Speaking of the NWA (uh, WCW-excuse me for once again living in the glorious past), why can't they bring in a few Japanese and Mexican guys just to guarantee a few good matches? They should also bring in such indie stars and underrated talents as Cactus Jack, Cheetah Kid, D.C Drake, Larry Winters, Abdullah, Rick Rude etc. Just what are they waiting for? On a scale of 1-10 (with one being the lowest), I give the NWA a 5 (truly mediocre) and the WWF a zero - "no redeeming social value."

How about writing something positive E.G.? Well, caught 50 year old George Clinton (of Parliament Funkadelic) in concert- guy played for three hours and 20 minutes without a break. Maybe we could get him to teach some of the guys about work rate.

I barely even watch 'rasslin on TV anymore. If I witness one more squash match EVER again (after 20 years of seeing them), I'll crack.

I'm looking forward to seeing Terry Funk vs. Bob Backlund 8/17 on promoter Dennis Coraluzzo's show in N.J. and Cactus Jack vs. Eddie Gilbert 8/3 in Philly on one of Joel Goodhart's bloodbaths....

Odds and ends: Good luck to Dan "The Man" Reilly and Tom Burke on their Wrestle-Radio show on 640 WNNZ in the Hartford/Springfield Western New England area Saturdays at noon...Who says Vince McMahon's a scoundrel and a liar? His main event at Summer Scam TRULY sounds like the "match made from hell".... The WWF has gotten so bad I don't even watch the MSG cards on cable. It's not worth my TIME let alone my money....How come Stan Hansen has 2* matches in the U.S. and 4* bouts in Japan?...Good thing Dino Bravo is back doing some shows in the WWF. Wouldn't want to lose a good worker like him! (Oy vay!)...Looking forward to the WWF's next pay per snore (stole that line from the Jersey Devil) which I rent at my local video store for a buck fifty about 3 weeks after the (barely) live show....It's a good thing Randy Savage is finally making an honest woman out of Elizabeth. (It's a joke!)...To all of you that REALLY care about the WWF I offer my sincerest expression of sympathy...Vic Stanley is the most underrated writer in wrestling fandom...Gee, I sure hope another dozen or so teenagers start their own sheets with month old information "borrowed" from Meltzer. There's a real NEED for them. Sheeeeeessh...

Finally, one of the greatest things about being in wrestling fandom is the close relationships you form throughout the years. Wrestling manages to bring people together regardless of distance, and I'd like to reprint IN ITS ENTIRETY, a recent letter I received which indicates just how warm and loving a friendship can be. The following is a recent letter (RL- Wasn't a letter readers, but written on top of my recent issue of "AR",) I got from none other than Ron Lemieux. Prepare to have your heartstrings tugged just a little bit: "Next deadline is 7/6."

It's feedback like that which brings a tear to the eye and makes it all worthwhile!

That about does it gang. Just remember though; you should always save my columns for future generations to savor and cherish. Either that or use them for your kitty's litter box...

As my "idol", Flavor Flav of Public Enemy would say, "See ya..."

Providence Civic Center (WWF)

Providence, RI

June 30, 1991

Correspondent: Louie Fortuna

1) Greg Valentine rolled up Haku in 7:05. 2) Davey Boy Smith won over Typhoon via count out in 9:14. 3) Ricky Steamboat beat Barbarian with a sunset flip when the ref kicked Barbie's hands off the ropes in 17:06. 4) Hulk Hogan & Hacksaw Duggan beat Sgt. Slaughter & Col Mustafa with Savage as guest ref. Randy played total face. Sarge threw Randy out of the ring but Savage came off the top rope with an elbow and made the three count for Hogan. 5) Shawn Michaels & Valentine (Jannetty missed flight from Orlando) beat Paul Roma & Dino Bravo in 8:36. 6) Warlord over Virgil via DQ in 8:28 when Virg hit the ref. 7) Animal pinned Jerry Saggs after colliding with Knobbs at 9:40. ATT: 4,500

PLUG

Andy King of 223 Linden Ave., Middletown, NY 10940 is looking for a good quality tape of the 4/22/91 WWF MSG show and also first season episodes of Beverly Hills, 90210.

SCOTT HUDSON'S.....

GEORGIA WRESTLING JOURNAL

OMNI COLISEUM (Atlanta, Georgia) 06-23-91: The Fabulous Freebirds & Bradstreet defeated The Young Pistols & Tommy Rich when Jimmy Garvin pinned Rich with a DDT in 16:55 **.Tom Zenk pinned Diamond Dallas Page to gain a victory over The Diamond Studd (you read correctly) in 11:25 * $\frac{1}{2}$..Richard Morton & Arn Anderson defeated Dustin Rhodes & Sam Houston when Arn Pinned Sam Following Mr. Hughes' clothesline in 15:05 **.P.N.News defeated Johnny B. Badd by DQ due to Teddy Long's interference in 9:30 DUD..Bobby Eaton and Steve Austin went to a legit 20:00 Broadway $\frac{1}{2}$ *..Rick Steiner & Yellow Dog (Pillman, sub for Scott) defeated Stan Hansen & Barry Windham when Dog pinned Windham with AirPillman in 7:08 ** $\frac{1}{4}$..Sting defeated Nikita Koloff by count out in a Lights Out-Texas Death Match following the 5th fall in 14:00 * $\frac{1}{4}$..Lex Luger & El Gigante defeated Ric Flair & One Man Gang when Luger tossed OMG over the top rope onto the stretcher outside the ring in 16:20 DUD..NEWS AND NOTES: This was the worst Omni show that I can remember. Things are very bad for these guys..ATT: 2700. Lowest in about 18 months..

SPARKLES RINK (Canton, Georgia) 06-16-91: GEORGIA ALL-STAR WRESTLING T.V. TAPINGS FOR AIR THE WEEKENDS OF 06-29-91 THROUGH 07-20-91. 06-29-91: Billy Black & Joel Deaton over the Avengers..Festus and Mad Dog Joe DDQ..Jon Michaels over Eddie Sweat..Chris Walker & Fabian over Brute Force by DQ..07-06-91: The Patriot over Eddie Sweat..Curtis Thompson over Mike Cervich..The Avengers over Steve Young & Rob McBride..Joel Deaton and Big Bully Busick drew..07-13-91: Brute Force over Steve Young & Mike Cervich..Curtis Thompson over The Patriot..Steve Lawler & Big Bully Busick over Festus & Jon Michaels..07-20-91: Billy Black over Steve Lawler..Joel Deaton over Mad Dog Joe..Brute Force over Chris Walker & Fabian..NEWS AND NOTES: This taping was hosted by Joe Pedicino & Craig Johnson. My personal thanks to Craig for covering for me while I was on my honeymoon..Curtis Thompson turns heel on the 06-29-show. The angle setting this up revolves around Thompson returning from appendicitis and asking Fabian to relinquish his half of the tag team championship. Fabian had replaced Thompson in the match where he & Walker defeated The PYT's for the straps (at the "Edmund Farhat Arena", remember?). The turn got over great which is really too bad because Curtis has gone to WCW as part of The Patriots conglomerate..Brute Force defeated Walker & Fabian on the 07-20 show to win the Georgia Tag Team Championship..ATT: 225. Legit sellout. Crowds here are picking up but the number of show is down to about 4 per month. Not to worry, though, as there are still the same number of shows, only very few are allowed to call themselves GAS.

OTHER NEWS AND NOTES: The WCW TV Taping schedule, for both of you who are interested, is as follows: 07-08 in Columbus, Georgia / 07-09 in Tallahassee, Florida / 07-15 in Salisbury, Maryland / 07-22 in Nashville, Tennessee / 07-29 in San Antonio, Texas / 07-30 in Corpus Christi, Texas / 08-05 in St. Joseph, Missouri / 08-06 in Sioux City, Iowa / 08-12 in Gainesville, Georgia / 08-13 in Augusta, Georgia / 08-19 in Battle Creek, Michigan / and 08-20 in Saginaw, Michigan..Hopefully in the next issue, I will have a ton of stuff regarding the Global Wrestling Federation tapings in Dallas held on 06-28 and 06-29..I hope everyone got to see the June 25, 1991, issue of National Examiner. Looks to me like all those prayers that Hogan keeps advocating got answered. Maybe if stay in the business long enough, I can a photo spread like that done..I can dream.....

THE LAST WORD...

10. Dick York of "Bewitched"
9. Tony Danza of "Who's The Boss"
8. Jack Klugman of "You Again"
7. Joyce Dewitt of "Three's Company"
6. Eve Plumb of "The Brady Bunch"
5. Bob Denver of "Gilligan's Island"
4. Mary Tyler Moore of "Supertrain"
3. George Wendt of "Cheers"
2. Bart Simpson of "Nohwrt"
1. Sherman Hemsley of "The Jeffersons"

TOP TEN
SITCOM
STARS SET
TO FEUD
WITH
PAUL E.

WHOO! WHAT A CLASH!

by K.C. O'Connor

These days driving further than across town to see a "Clash of Champions" in person may seem as crazy as a Cactus Jack bump, but a five hour drive through the Appalachain Mountains in rain and fog as thick as Dusty's waistline was a small price to pay to see Bobby Eaton challenge Ric Flair for the belt. Although the previous day of the show advance ticket sales were at 500, there was a line wrapped around the building in the hot, muggy rain by 4:30 p.m. Unfortunately my ringside partner to be Klon no showed due to inclement weather. Also scheduled to join us was Steve "Leave a message at the beep" Beverly, who fell ill and we wish him a four star recovery.

Although this is not official, I believe the Knoxville Civic Coliseum was about a 5,000-7,000 seat venue and it filled up quickly. The crew was making sound checks and working out any last minute technical glitches as Gary Cappett came down the ramp. The crowd was really pumped and Capetta milked the crowd and quickly whipped them into a screaming frenzy. When he announced who would be there on the show, Missy "Spank me again Mr. Hansen" Hyatt got the biggest pop of the night. My suspicions about Big Stardust being a communist were confirmed when the National Anthem was omitted. While Jimmy Suzuki kept asking me where Meltzer was, Ricky Nelson and El Cubano worked a * $\frac{1}{4}$ * dark match. This is the point of the evening where Capetta earns his money, telling the crowd to keep the noise up while leading the countdown. This was the most vocal crowd I've seen since Baltimore last summer.

The Freebirds vs. The Pistols and Z-Man is a solid opener, and Tracy Smothers is a great worker who always puts out. Z-Man looked good after his long layoff, but was blowing up near the end. Many nice sequences throughout the match and a small unimportant note, Brad and Steve Armstrong only locked up once in a brief scuffle. Oz gets a big pop for his music and his intro, and nobody sells a clothesline like Johnny Rich. Spivey and Josh was a forgettable match on paper, but wasn't too bad. During the pin though, both men had their shoulders to the mat. Had this been something someone cared about they might have said something about it, but this match had a goofy ending already. Suffice to say that if you popped in the privacy of your own home for the Dange Zone, don't feel ashamed. While I could hear a maniacal laugh from Bowdren in Florida and Hitchcock in N.C., an arena of Knoxvilleans was in complete accord. Dangerously put a little bit of extra oomph in that swing, but the rumor that the San Francisco Giants want Paul E. to replace Dravecky has yet to be confirmed. Dustin and Taylor was a fine match again. Inquiring (not Global) mind want to know why Nikita is referred to as the "Russian Nightmare" yet billed as being from Lithuania? I guess a monster heel being called the "Lithuanian Lover" wouldn't work. Quite a match though as Sting got his and Nikita proved that he belongs there just as much as any of the other guys. What a refreshing change from the fearsome armbar that seems to be a requirement in most matches, to working on the ribs. This match may have seemed too long, but it felt like a real tough match, not a showcase for some egomaniac. Someone should have told Gordon Solie's mother that her flag was backwards though. Let there be no doubt that P.N. News is over. When you get almost 100% support in the heart of Country Music Land, doing a rap gimmick, you're over. For those that didn't catch it on TV, that was only 2/3 of the rap group Salt-N-Pepa. No they don't have another secret spice, one of them was Spindarella, the DJ of the group. As told to me by none other than Bruce "Nice tits Lou" Mithell, Salt is with child. And since Bruce's apartment is a shambles covered with "Teenbeat" and "Rapmaster" magazines, I'll take his word for it. Apparently Gigante is such a giant that he needs two "e"s on his tights where it says "Thee Giant". Either that or Nickla fell asleep at the sewing machine. Two major things that the camera didn't catch were Windham loading his boot and Pillman's rather non-chalant expression after losing. Most people around me thought he was heading to Titan because of his lack of disappointment. Maybe Pillman's got an animal fetish and doesn't mind what's in store for the summer? The IWGP tag match was great and Chono is a great heel. Scott blew up pacing on the ring apron. The brawl afterwards went through the commercial as Murdoch came off the top rope twice on Rick's arm. OUCH!!

The crowd bought the Sting-Kid-Nikita angle big time. And those of you sick puppies, (Hitch), that were waiting for Nikita to yank the kid's mother, well maybe next time. But there is little doubt Nikita became the #1 heel after that. You'd have thought he was a recycling receptacle the way Nikita was bombarded with trash on his way back to the locker room. Muta and Lex was too quick but very effective. Luger should make some kind of character change before winning the title in Baltimore. It would be more acceptable to the common fan. Steve Austin is actually bigger than Lex although not in the pecs, but that's okay because Jeannie has got that department covered. Well, they're kind of covered. In the coming attractions promo, Austin had the TV belt on already but I doubt many people caught it. And for those whose sound on their tv is a little off, Black Blood is actually screaming, "Bad Vlad!", a mark told me so Al Blake, where have you gone? A nation turns its lonely eye to you.

While the York Foundation angle seemed like something that could only happen in "Bow Down To The Booker", it was real. Yes Mr. Madden, there is a Santa Claus. Unfortunately the money is so low in WCW that Morton had to borrow a suit from Mike Gunter and to say that it wasn't a great fit is being as generous as the cut of the suit. But why nit-pick? You've seen the match, you know what happened. What you didn't see was over 400 people walk out half-way through the match. The people upstairs cleared out quicker than Dusty on his way to the buffet at a K&W cafeteria. It was well announced as a two out of three fall match, but the people either figured there would be a screw job ending or they just didn't give a damn. Bobby doesn't inspire alot of crowd response and it showed. This show apparently didn't sound as well on TV as it did live, but it was not the crowd. They were into everything and maybe they just blew their load during the undercard. It is a sad day when the crowd will put their hands together for a glorified prelim guy but not the two best wrestlers in the promotion.

Afterwards in the hotel, I found out that the little ring rat in red was actually conceived under the Tree of Woe and that although Capetta may not teach Spanish in high school anymore he still has alot of class. Seeing Flair walk through the hotel lobby in a tee-shirt, tights, and carrying a briefcase poking his head in the bar to catch the score of the Bulls-Lakers game certainly brings you back down to Earth. Apparently being the only hardcore there was a plus as far as how the wrestlers treat you in the bar as well. A big thanks to all the WCW personel who treated me like a normal guy and not as a mortal enemy. A wrestling card is a wrestling card is a wrestling card. Well maybe so, but til night it was alot more.

COLUMNIST PROFILE

by Marianne Ryan

I am a relative newcomer to the world of wrestling as I have only been following it for about four years. I started watching it while at college in Milwaukee. It was either wrestling or fishing shows, and I chose wrestling. One day, I caught a glimpse of Bret Hart and immediatly knew there was something special about him. I decided I would have to meet him, but it would take almost a year for that to happen. In the meantime, I went to my very first pro wrestling match on June 21, 1987 in South Bend, Indiana. Even from the start I was hopping around the midwest.

Since then, I have been to over 100 matches (130 at last count), the vast majority of those being WWF shows. I have been fortunate to become friends with most of the wrestlers and even some of their families. I can't even remember the last time I had to buy a ticket to get into one of the shows. I consider myself truly lucky, not only because it's not everyone who gets to spend time with these people, but I have made some close friends as well.

On the personal side, I am 28, a native of Chicago, and an only child. I graduated from Marquette University in 1986 with degrees in Journalism and Broadcasting. I manage the building I live in (which my parents just happen to own), and I also work as a freelance writer. I love reading true crime stories and biographies. I'm a big music fan (I have over 1,200 tapes and albums), with my favorites being Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd and David Bowie. I'm a die hard Bears fan as well. The man in my life and I are a week from our two-year anniversary, but we don't have any serious plans right now.

I must be honest though, I wouldn't trade what I've got for anything. Nothing in the world beats having Randy Savage cheer you up by telling you even if everyone else turns against you, you still have the Macho Man. With people like that on my side, how could I go wrong.

CORRESPONDENT'S CORNER

Toledo Sports Arena (WWF)

Toledo, OH

June 22, 1991

Correspondent: Doug Hendricks

1) Berzerker pinned Koko Ware. Dud. 2) Bret Hart over Warlord via count out. Dud 3) Mr. Perfect drew with Davey Boy Smith. * 4) Rockers over Haku & Barbarian. *** 5) Col. Mustafa pinned Shane Douglas (sub for Duggan) * for Shane. 6) Roadie Animal beat Nasty Boy Knobbs. Good haet for Nasties. ** 7) Hacksaw Duggan over Sgt. Slaughter in a desert storm match when Adnon threw in the towel. Hack subbed for Hogan who was pulled off the shows right after news hit the papers that Hogan purchased steroids from Zahorian from '85-'89. * ATT: 3,000

Original Sports Bar (TWA)

Baltimore, MD

June 23, 1991

Correspondent: Bruce Ginevan

1) Rockin Rebel over Sandman in a bout that saw great brawling outside the ring. At one point, Rebel smeared a plate of fries with ketchup all over Sandy. B 2) Kurt Dredd over Steve Valentino. D 3) Bounty Hunter Max Thrasher squashed Johnny O. F 4) Jimmy Jannetty (Marty look a like but smaller) over C.N. Red. F

5) Pit Bulls vs. Johnny Hotbody & Larry Winters went to a double DQ. Bruce said the Bulls are greener than his baby's shit. Better take that kid to the doctor's pal. Dud 6) Axl Rotten over A.J. Fritzoid. C+ 7) Buddy Landell! used the spinning elbow to beat J.T. Smith. Lots of stand up comedy by Buddy including asking where the fat girl was who cost him 40,000 a year was. (The one he blew snot at in B-More.) B 8) D.C. Drake over Tony Stetson via DQ for outside interference from Hotbody & Winters. D ATT: 90

Springfield Civic Center (WWF)

Springfield, MA

June 24, 199

Correspondents: Ted Bruttomesso & Dan Reilly

1) Berzerker pinned Jimmy Snuka in a bout called by Dan as a battle of the barkers. Guys just went through the motions. $\frac{1}{4}$ * 2) Jake Roberts DDT'd Earthquake. Bad but crowd popped. $\frac{1}{2}$ * 3) Animal powerslammed Paul Roma in 5:15. Barely worked up a sweat. * 4) Col. Mustafa used a loaded boot to beat Shane Douglas who subbed for Duggan who was subbing for Hogan in the other city. Sheik actually worked hard. ** 5) Undertaker beat Roddy Piper via count out in 5:10. Callous rolled the mat outside the ring up and piledrove Roddy headfirst (makes sense right. what else, feet first? I'm okay.) and Roddy took the ten count. After, it took 15 minutes to get Roddy to the dress room. They really milked this one. $\frac{1}{2}$ * 6) Kerry Von Erich and Warlord went to a double count out. Poor effort. $\frac{1}{4}$ * 7) Ted DiBiase hit Virgil with a foreign object that Sherri threw him and Ted got the pin at 8:50. $\frac{1}{2}$ * all for Sherri. ATT: 1,800

LETTERS TO "AR"

AR and the IWF: Treading Where Angels Fear To Tread?

I enjoyed your "Birth of the IWF" piece about Eddy Mansfield's new International Wrestling Federation and the group's 6/15 taping experience (Very smart and clever!) at Universal Studios in Orlando.

It is going to be fun reading your ongoing first hand accounts of the trials and tribulations of this group as well as your revelations about your own desire and efforts to work for the IWF as a ring announcer or something. It will be especially interesting to see how well you can "walk the aisle" between objective reporting versus the natural sense of loyalty and support you may develop for the IWF.

If you can't pull it off (the objective part), it will become immediately apparent to most of us. And even if you can, just remember, there will always be those skeptics and critics out there who will find fault or something to stir up even if there is nothing in the pot to stir. But by all means, Ron, if a big part of your heart wants to become a worker for a pro wrestling outfit, do it! Down the road, whether you win, lose, or draw, whether the experience is sweet or bitter, you will forever kick yourself for not giving it a try.

In the final analysis, you have done the correct thing right from the start. In the last issue of "AR", you notified one and all of your interest and intentions to both work for and report on the IWF. No, it will not be an easy task. But yes, it will be interesting as hell. And I'm sure you will figure out how to wear both hats as best as you can. (Just do me and the rest of your readers a favor. Minimize the apologies when you feel a need to make them and keep the pollyanna crappola to a minimum. And if you run into something that you really cannot report, hey, there are a dozen other sheets out there which can and probably will fill in the gaps. So what?)

The bottom line is this. Your coverage of Eddy Mansfield, your news and descriptions and analysis of the IWF and its raft of new names and faces, will benefit all, as it is groups like the IWF on the East Coast and Woody Farmer's California Wrestling Association in the San Francisco Bay Area on the West Coast which are among the last few remaining and budding hopes for a wrestling world that has not yet become totally McMahonized. Go for it, pal.

Jeff Mullins
San Jose, CA

Credibility

Credibility, which includes objectivity and factual reporting, is the most important aspect of journalism in any form. Having said this, let me say that this letter is not an attack on Ron Lemieux's character. However, after reading Ron's "disclaimer" and following piece on the IWF, several things came to mind.

The disclaimer stated that Ron has earned his credibility over the past three years, and he has. But he also stated he would not shill, and in Ron's first effort, he may have done just that and crossed the line of objectivity.

Why? There's a difference between objectively reporting a new promotions strengths/weaknesses and praising the strengths and throwing in a few weaknesses almost as an afterthought. I mean, this is an indie, and although the taping may have run smoothly, there are still rookies who are green and not great with the mic, generally speaking of course. Ron seemed almost apologetic when

listing a weakness, then quickly covered it up with a soothing compliment. To be fair, Ron's credibility has not been compromised....yet. It was his first effort and as he will hopefully find a happy, objective medium on the IWF as he continues to report. I think his readers will certainly be watching in hopes that it doesn't turn into a cheerleading column.

Eric Krol
Orland Hills, IL

RL- Let me clear a couple of things up. First off. I know a green guy when I see one. The tapings were well into the third hour before there was a missed spot. Given the experience of most of these guys, that is great. Second, the people that couldn't do a good interview were kept off the mic. Interviews were one of the strongest parts of the show. And lastly, the wrestlers in the IWF were told to take anything negative in the sheets as constructive criticism from upper management so there is no pressure on me to not tell it like it is.

Harry Speaks

This may sound off base from someone who watched a promotion with no managers, few interviews, and little in the ring hi-jinks but I have no problem with the Oz gimmick. If the man who owns the company wants an Oz gimmick and continues to pump millions into the company than by all means give him an Oz' gimmick. As long as we get matches like Bobby/Arn, Steiners/Sting-Lex, Flair/Fujinami, Brian/Barry, I can take a couple of Oz gimmicks.

Do you even think that if Disney had approached Bill Watts with millions but he had to run one movie gimmick that Watts would turn him down? If Watts could still have his hardcore UWF style and millions from a big corporation, I think he might tolerate a Disney Snow White gimmick with Dopey, Grumpy, Sneezy, Burke, etc...(Sorry Tom)

If Bob Guccione of Penthouse Corp. bought the company and wanted to run a Caligula movie gimmick, I'm sure the hardcore fans from Mons Venus would not mind that angle.

Harry White
St. Louis, MO

Stop Sheet Wars

As a subscriber to Arena Report, I would like to ask why we are constantly and consistantly bombarded in this publication by whining and complaining between and about the authors of similar wrestling rags? Does anyone find this crying and bitching interesting? Is this what makes publishing this rag fun? Is it necessary to include it in your publication? If they want to artificially inflate their egos by bitching about this or other rags, let them. Must you also stoop to such a practice? Ignore these S.O.B.'s and lets get back to the basic premise of this rag, WRESTLING and WRESTLERS (not publishers)!

Marc Trychel
Orlando, FL

RL- Most of the barbs thrown by myself at other editors are in jest. My columnist have free reign over their material unless it was a whole column ripping someone apart, I wouldn't change a word. I wish you would have included some examples. I can't remember any major attacks on anyone in this newsletter. Also, I don't know about the other editors, but I take offense to this newsletter being called a "rag".

Wrestle Fan II?

It was great sitting next to the editor of Arena Report for the IWF matches, the UWF matches, not to mention WCW and PWF. Thank you for all your help in promoting Wrestle Fan I. Of course you were a superb co-host on "Pro Wrestling Weekly and ring announcers do not get any better thsn you. I made many friends at the convention. Most of the smart fans are super. Yes, even Mitch and Lance. Hope we can make another Lake Mary-Tampa connection for Wrestle Fan II in '92. And I am open to all suggestions. Please all write, Paul Spiegel, P.O. Box 22164, Tampa, FL 33622.

Paul Spiegel
Tampa, FL

The Ultimate Clash Memory

Long after I forget who the Steiners wrestled during Clash XV, the visual memory that will stick out most clearly in my mind is Ricky Morton decking long time tag partner Robert Gibson followed by the hyper-kinetic way Gibson bounced, rolled, and flopped all over the mat like a Luche Libre jumping bean. The way Gibson sold Morton's sucker punch, I would not be the least bit surprised if he drew inspiration from all the Saturday morning Daffy Duck cartoons he must have watched while recovering from the operation on his bum leg. Now, who did those Steiner boys wrestle? Hmmm.....

Riki-Jack Hammeroyd
San Jose, CA